



278961

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION VI 3  
10/6/94

DATE: October 6, 1994

FROM: Fred Bartman, OSC, U.S. EPA, Region V, Chicago

TO: R. Karl, EERB, FAX 312 353-9176  
J. Cisneros, ESS, FAX 312 353-9176  
D. Bruce, Chief, Emer. Resp. Sec. II, FAX 312 353-9176  
T. Johnson, Wash. D.C. (EPA 5511), Fax 703 603-9116  
A. Warren, ORC, Chicago, FAX 312 886-7160  
L. Leveque, OPA, Chiacago, FAX 312 353-1155  
U.S. Coast Guard, District 2, Fax 312 539-2649  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IL. Fax 309 793-5804  
J. VanderKloot, City of Chicago, FAX 312 744-9010  
D. Klopke, IEPA, FAX 708 756-3201

SUBJECT: Cuneo Press Site, Chicago, Illinois

POLREP : INITIAL

SITE No.: BO

DELIVERY ORDER No.:

RESPONSE AUTHORITY: CERCLA

NPL STATUS: Non-NPL

Time Period: September 12 through 16, 1994

SITUATION : The Cuneo Press site consists of two huge abandoned (700,000 square feet) seven story warehouses. The warehouses have extensive damage due to a tire fire, a movie production (Backdraft) and vandalism.

Drums containing hazardous substances were discovered by the City of Chicago mainly on the fourth floor and basement of one of the buildings. Isolated small groups of drums were also discovered on other floors. The City requested an expedited removal assessment because of scheduled demolition of the buildings in November 1994.

A verbal authorization to initiate a removal action was obtained when it was discovered that the drums were freely accessible and individuals were using the contents to become intoxicated.

RESPONSE ACTIONS : On September 12, 1994, ERCS (Superior Environmental) was mobilized to the site.

By September 16, 1994, approximately 172 containers of various sizes were staged and characterized. The drums are currently staged into a more secure area pending disposal. Retrieval of the containers proved to be difficult because of poor condition of the buildings and flooded basements.

EQM/Superior is currently arranging for disposal while discussions are ongoing with the PRPs.